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4 May 1960

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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4 MAY 1960

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

More than 15,000 East Germans fled to West Berlin in April.

①

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Saudi Arabian and Libyan authorities implement Arab boycott of US shipping.

②

Lebanon--Tension running high between Christians and Moslems.

③

Indonesia irate over unauthorized departure of Chinese Communist ship carrying repatriates from Sumatra.

④

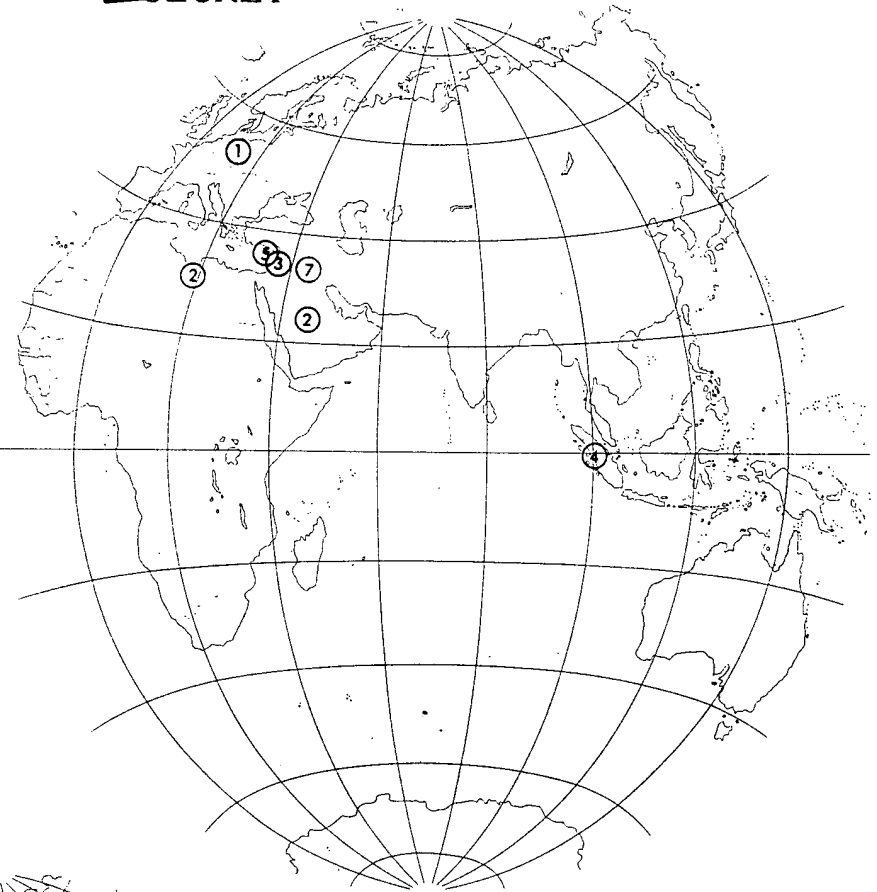
I. THE WEST

Cyprus--British governor hopes agreement is near with Makarios on remaining disputes delaying independence.

⑤

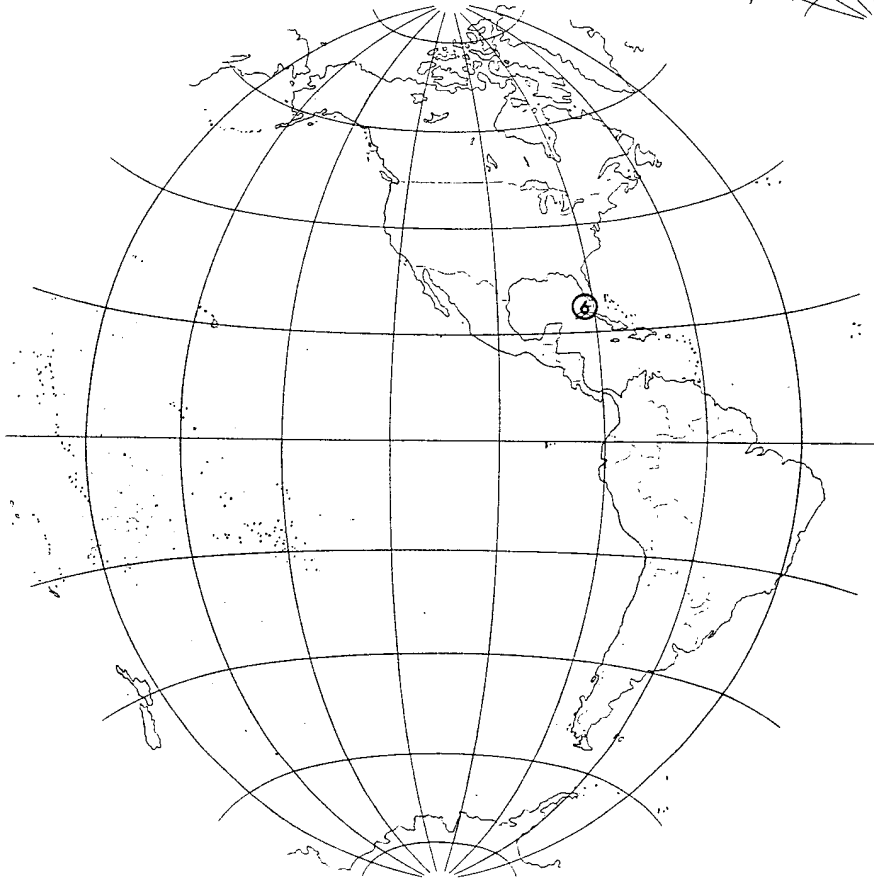
Cuban criticism of Betancourt may presage greater support for pro-Castro elements in Venezuela.

⑥



LATE ITEM

⑦ Iraqi cabinet reshuffled.



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

4 May 1960

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

OK East Germany: A total of 15,502 East Germans fled to West Berlin in April 1960, compared with less than 9,000 in March and 9,162 in April 1959. The proportion of male refugees of military age was the highest in 20 months. A new element in the latter half of April consisted of youths fleeing a regime drive to assign them to collective farms as workers.

[redacted] (Page 1)

II. ASIA-AFRICA

OK - delete last sent. Arab Boycott: The Saudi Arabian Government has forbidden the loading or unloading of American-flag ships, including tankers, in Saudi ports. Libyan authorities have ordered an American freighter carrying cargo for Wheelus Air Base and for the American development program in Libya not to enter Tripoli harbor, and local US military authorities have advised diversion of a navy cargo ship.

OK Lebanon: Christian-Moslem tension is increasing as plans are being made for parliamentary elections. Intervention of Moslem police in a dispute between rival Christian factions en route to a pontifical mass in Beirut on 1 May resulted in two deaths and more than 60 other casualties. Extremist Christian elements have retaliated by bombing the home of the director of National Police, a Moslem. President Shihab can be expected to order stringent controls, but further incidents are probable. [redacted] (Page 5)

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OK
Indonesia - Communist China: The Indonesian Government calls the unsanctioned departure of a Chinese Communist ship from a Sumatran port after picking up 750 Overseas Chinese a "gross violation" which "cannot be ignored." Local Indonesian authorities have asked the navy to intercept the ship. The departure was not authorized because the Chinese passengers had refused to comply with emigration regulations, apparently on advice from a Chinese Communist consul. []

[] Page 6)

III. THE WEST

NO
Cyprus: [Governor Foot is optimistic that negotiations with Makarios can be ended soon and Cypriot independence proclaimed in early June. The size of the bases to be retained by the British has been agreed upon at 98 square miles. The remaining issues are the exact boundaries and the ultimate disposition of the British bases; the financial aid Britain is to furnish Cyprus; and the proportion of Greeks and Turks in the Cypriot civil service.] In Athens, General George Grivas, former leader of the Cypriot guerrilla organization EOKA, charged that Makarios has "lost control of the situation." Grivas, demanding that Makarios clarify his position with regard to terrorists who recently kidnaped an anti-Makarios newspaper editor, predicted possible civil war as a result. Early independence would help to ease the deteriorating economic situation, but growing conflict among the Greek Cypriots themselves suggests a long period of political tension on the island. []

NO
Cuba-Venezuela. Recent attacks against President Betancourt in the semiofficial Cuban press and radio, reinforced by Castro's indirect slur in his May Day speech, may presage increased Cuban support of influential pro-Castro groups in Venezuela, where there is an increasingly sharp division over policy toward Castro. Cuba has maintained close contacts with dissatisfied elements in Betancourt's coalition, as well as with the Venezuelan Communists, and

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may be giving them financial aid and guidance. [Betancourt
has privately revealed his complete disenchantment with Castro
but probably wishes to avoid an open rift until after their com-
mon enemy--Dominican dictator Trujillo--is ousted.] [redacted]
[redacted]

LATE ITEM

OK *Iraq: A reshuffle of the Qasim cabinet on 3 May has re-
sulted in the dropping of Finance Minister Hadid, one of the most
influential and conservative members, and the appointment of an
additional army officer, Brig. Gen. Ismail Arif, former military
attaché in Washington, as minister of education. Iraq's first
woman cabinet minister, a suspected Communist, has been shelved
and made minister of state. The replacement of the competent
Hadid is likely to delay economic recovery, and the influence of
the army will increase. [redacted]
[redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

East German Refugee Flights to West Berlin Rise

A total of 15,502 refugees reached West Berlin in April. The monthly total was the highest since the mass flights of professional men in August 1958, when 15,703 fled. The number of males of military age was also the highest since that period. West German officials say that approximately 16 percent of the April total are farmers. Many youths are fleeing to escape the regime's drive to assign them to collective farms as workers.

In the week ending 26 April, 4,911 refugees reached West Berlin, bringing to 7,675 the total for the two-week period beginning 13 April. There were 2,240 fewer refugees in the comparable period last year, when the regime's security precautions were less stringent.

The regime has taken drastic steps to curb the flights, even making attempts to apprehend refugees in West Berlin elevated railroad stations operated by the East Germans. It has also blocked the savings accounts of farmers suspected of planning to escape, and in consequence many refugees now are entering West Berlin with little or no money. To avoid arousing suspicion, many also carry no personal belongings. The high refugee flow is particularly embarrassing to the Communists on the eve of the summit, but the Ulbricht regime probably considers that the drastic measures needed for effective closing of the Berlin escape routes would be even more embarrassing.

The regime's schedule for organizing the former privately owned farms into large-scale Soviet-type collectives reportedly has been postponed for two or three years as a consequence of the low morale among remaining farmers, shortages of farm

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machinery and buildings, and lack of experienced organizers. [redacted]
[East Germany, meanwhile, reportedly is attempting to get
needed farm machinery from other bloc countries.]

The regime is seeking to pin the onus for the flights on
Evangelical churchmen, in an evident move to counteract the
effects of their strong criticism of the use of coercion in the
collectivization program [redacted]

[redacted]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Arab Boycott of US Shipping Gains Momentum

The boycott of American-flag ships, in retaliation for continuing refusal by union labor in New York to unload the UAR freighter Cleopatra, is spreading to most Arab ports. The Saudi Arabian Government has forbidden the loading or unloading of American-flag ships, including tankers, in Saudi ports. The inclusion of tankers in the Saudi ban is of little practical significance, however, since American-flag tankers constitute only a very small percentage of the total number operating in Saudi ports or in the Persian Gulf area as a whole.

Officials of several Arab states have been anxious to delay ordering direct implementation of the boycott and have asked US officials and private shippers to divert American freighters from their ports. In Iraq, for example, the foreign minister made such a request [REDACTED] The General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions declared a boycott and appealed to all Arab workers to join in. The Qasim government will probably go along with implementation of the boycott against the first American-flag ship which enters the port of Basra.

In Libya, after two freighters had been diverted, Libyan authorities ordered a third, which was carrying cargo for Wheelus Air Base and for the American development program, not to enter Tripoli harbor. Local US military authorities subsequently advised diversion of a navy cargo ship.

The UAR has been the prime mover in organizing the boycott; the overt planning has been carried out by the UAR-dominated International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions. The belief among all Arab leaders that the boycott in New York was "Zionist instigated" has contributed an unusual

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degree of Arab solidarity on this issue.

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[REDACTED]
Christian-Moslem Tension Rising in Lebanon

[Intervention by Moslem-directed police in a dispute between two Christian factions on 1 May, resulting in two deaths and the wounding of more than 60 persons, has increased Christian-Moslem tensions at a time when parliamentary elections are in the offing.]

[The violence occurred as crowds gathered for a pontifical mass planned as a gesture of national unity and attended by the papal nuncio, the Maronite patriarch, the Lebanese cabinet, and members of the diplomatic corps. Supporters of former President Chamoun and the Phalange, the political arm of the Maronite Church led by Minister of Works Pierre Jumayyil, staged rival demonstrations. The pro-Nasir Moslem chief of the emergency police, a deserter during the 1958 rebellion, threw a hand grenade into the crowd. This was followed by firing by the police. Extremist Christian elements retaliated the next day by bombing the residence of the Moslem director of National Police.]

[Jumayyil, whose leadership of the Christians is waning, has been placed in a difficult position and has threatened to resign unless stern measures are taken immediately to punish the culprit. Although President Shihab can be expected to take strong measures to prevent further disorders, the incident is likely to unite the Christians against the Shihab regime and possibly against the patriarch, who has been regarded by many Christians as being soft in defending Christian rights.]

[Because of apprehension in Christian quarters that any new parliament will be dominated by pro-UAR elements bent on destroying the delicate balance between Christians and Moslems, this incident is likely to increase the influence of extremists among the Christian elements. Further incidents are probable] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Indonesian Government Outraged by Illegal Departure
Of Chinese Communist Ship

The Indonesian Government has labeled as a "gross violation" which "cannot be ignored" the unauthorized departure of a Chinese Communist ship from a small Sumatran port after picking up 750 Overseas Chinese. Local authorities requested naval assistance to intercept the ship. Indonesian officials said the ship's departure had not been authorized because the Chinese refused to comply with emigration regulations including fingerprinting and submission of belongings for examination, apparently on the advice of the Chinese consul from Medan.

Chinese emigration is the result of an Indonesian ban on rural alien retailers and Peiping's subsequent invitation to Overseas Chinese to return to the mainland if dissatisfied with their treatment in Indonesia. Peiping has consistently protested Indonesia's treatment of repatriates and is particularly concerned with Djakarta's refusal to permit them to take more than a token amount of money and personal property to China. Sino-Indonesian discussions in Djakarta aimed at eradicating differences over repatriation procedures have made little progress. The Chinese ship's unauthorized departure may reflect Peiping's decision to put additional pressure on Djakarta.

Sino-Indonesian friction over the Overseas Chinese issue has persisted since mid-1959. Until relations improve, the Indonesian Government does not intend to replace its ambassador in Peiping, whose tour ended in February. The Indonesian chargé walked out of a session of the National People's Congress in mid-April, and the Indonesian foreign minister later protested when a high official of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Commission attacked the "military dictatorship" in Indonesia.

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